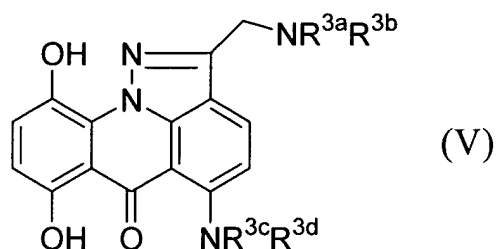


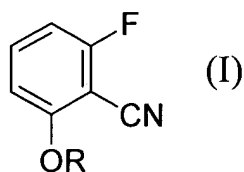
a.) Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (V):



~~wherein~~ wherein R^{3a} , R^{3b} , R^{3c} and R^{3d} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-Y^1$ [wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y^1 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or $-NR^{4a}R^{4b}$ {wherein R^{4a} and R^{4b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, or $-(CH_2)_m-Y^2$ [wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y^2 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or $-NR^{5a}R^{5b}$ (wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl)], or R^{4a} and R^{4b} forms a heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom}], or $-CH((CH_2)_pOH)_2$ (wherein p represents an integer of 1 to 5)] ~~which comprises steps of, which comprises steps of:~~

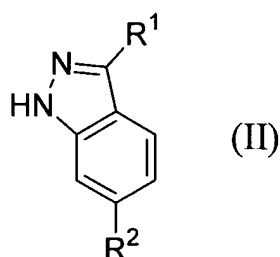
reacting a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (I):



~~wherein~~ wherein R represents lower alkyl) alkyl

~~in the presence of a base~~ with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula

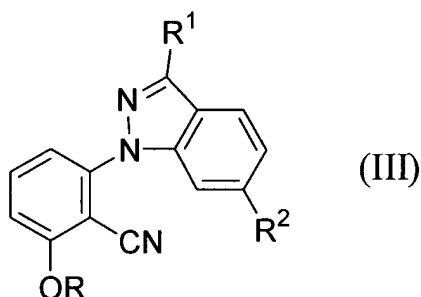
(II):



~~wherein~~ wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted ~~aryl~~ aryl

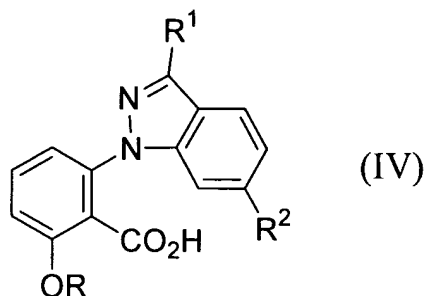
~~in the presence of a base~~

to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



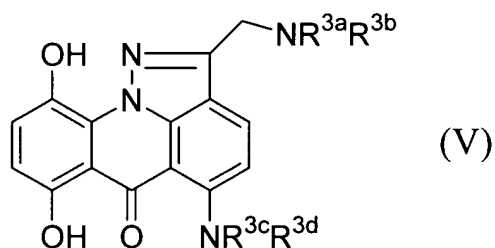
~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above,~~
~~respectively);~~

and hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III) to produce a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):



(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).

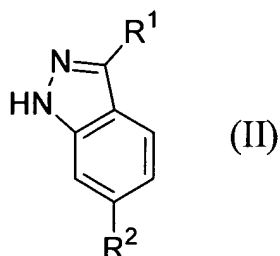
2. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (V):



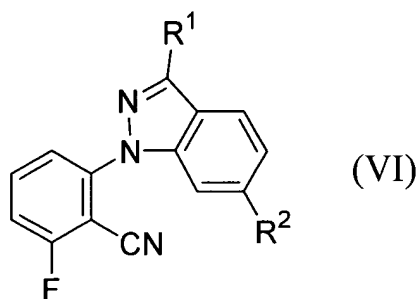
(wherein R3a, R3b, R3c and R3d have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)
wherein R^{3a}, R^{3b}, R^{3c} and R^{3d} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, -(CH₂)_n-Y¹ [wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y¹ represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or -NR^{4a}R^{4b} {wherein R^{4a} and R^{4b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, or -(CH₂)_m-Y² [wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y² represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or -NR^{5a}R^{5b} (wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl)]}, or R^{4a} and R^{4b} forms a heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom}], or -CH((CH₂)_pOH)₂ (wherein p represents an integer of 1 to 5), which comprises steps of:

~~which comprises steps of~~

reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile with a compound represented by ~~general~~
formula (II):

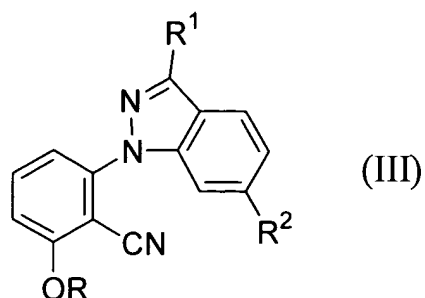


~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl in the presence of a base to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI):



~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively);~~

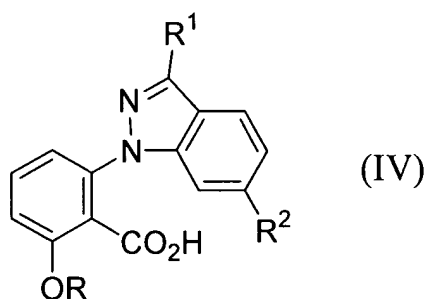
converting the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI) into
a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R represents lower alkyl;

and

hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III) to produce a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):

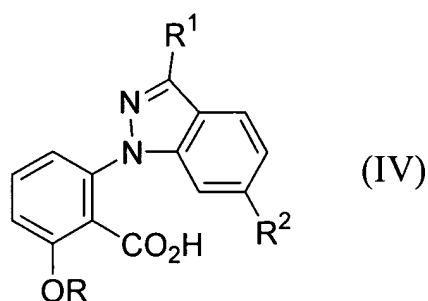


(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).

3. (Original) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R is methyl.

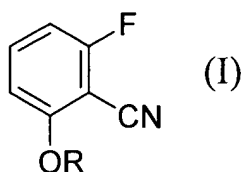
4. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claims 1 or 2, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):



~~(wherein R, R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which comprises steps of steps of:

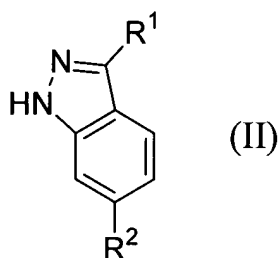
reacting a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (I):



~~(wherein R has the same meaning as defined above)~~

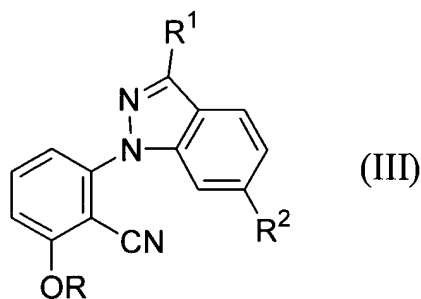
in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula

(II):



~~(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above,~~
~~respectively)~~ in the presence of a base

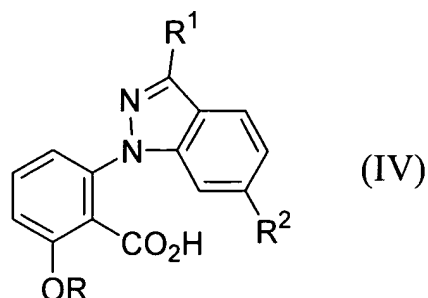
to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above,~~
~~respectively); and~~

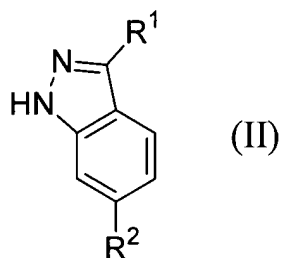
hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by
~~general~~ formula (III).

6. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (IV):



(wherein R, R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which comprises comprises:

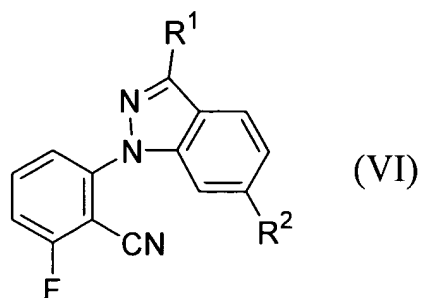
reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):



(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)

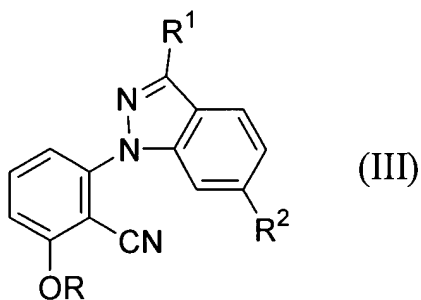
in the presence of a base

to produce a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI):



(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively);

converting the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI) into
a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



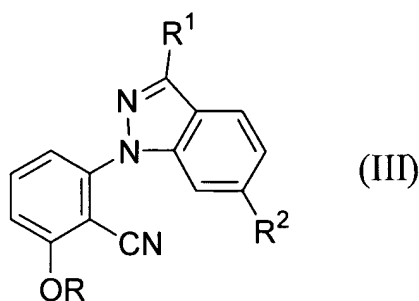
(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively); and

hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by
~~general~~ formula (III).

7. (Original) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to claim 5 or 6, wherein R is methyl.

8. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claims 5 or 6, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):

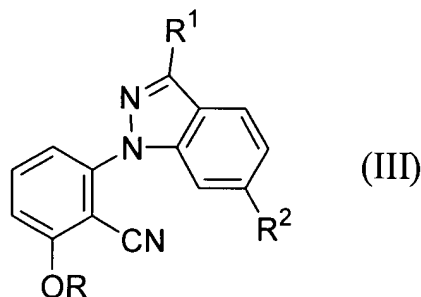


~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl,

or a salt thereof.

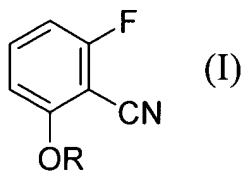
10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9, wherein R is methyl, or a salt thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



~~(wherein R, R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

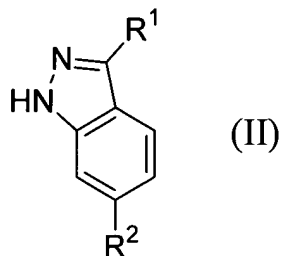
reacting a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (I):



~~(wherein R has the same meaning as defined above)~~

in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula

(II):

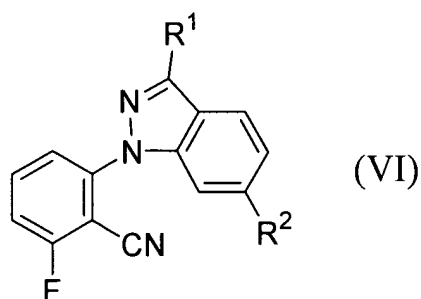


(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively)

in the presence of a base.

12. (Original) The process according to claim 11, wherein R is methyl.

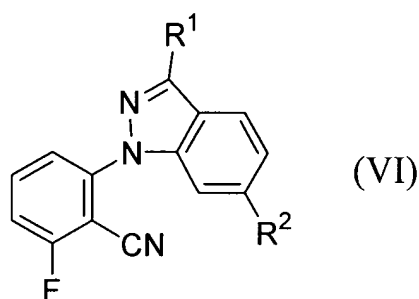
13. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by ~~general~~ formula
(VI):



(wherein R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R1 represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R2 represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,

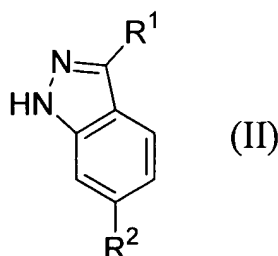
substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl,
or a salt thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI):



~~(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~ wherein
wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl);
and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,
substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a
substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile in the presence of a base with a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (II):



~~(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above,~~
respectively)

~~in the presence of a base.~~

15. (New) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to claim 3, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.

16. (New) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to claim 7, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.